The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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CAPITAL-LABOR TERM DEFINED BY GOMPERS

Washington, Oct. 25. — While the president's industrial conference was discussing the relations of "capital and labor," President Gompers struck this fundamental note:

"Capital consists of tables—these tables and these chairs, these chandeliers, boots, shoes, pork, hides and cattle, machinery, wool, sugar, oil—anything that can be brought to your mind relative to the very things that I have encompassed in the term 'capital'—dead things, inanimate things, material things, things which can be sold and bought, things which are subject to barter and sale, capital invested for the production for still more capital, more inanimate things, material things.

"And what is labor? Labor is the men and the women, erroneously, and intentionally coined in the terminology of labor. It is laborers, workers, human beings, men and women and children, and when it comes to the question of determining what is of greater importance as to men and women and little children and dollars and things, the soul of mankind goes out to men and women, and children, rather than to capital—the regulation of capital, the material things of life and the regulation of men and women and children.

"If the old concept of labor and capital still prevailed in this year of strife you would find children in the textile mills of America working 12, 14 and 16 hours a day.

"Talk of labor and capital and regulating both by the same yardstick and rule!"

INDICT FOR "CONSPIRACY"

Oklahoma City, Okla., Oct. 25.—The federal court in this city has returned indictments against 17 male and one female member of the Commercial Telegraphers' union who are charged with "conspiracy against the government" when they suspended work last summer to enforce a living wage. Indictments have also been handed down against E. J. Giddings, attorney for the strikers; a local police detective and a sympathizer.

Chicago, Oct. 25.—"The charge is absurd," says International Secretary-Treasurer Schnur of the Commercial Telegraphers' union in discussing the indictment of commercial telegraphers in an Oklahoma City federal court.

"The case," said Schnur, "took on a satirical twist when our attorney was indicted, also for conspiracy, for giving his clients a written opinion—'quoting the law'—stating in fact that our people have the right to picket peaceably anywhere and upon any occasion; that this right is guaranteed us as American citizens under the laws of the city, state and country.

"Some significance may be obtained from the fact that he (Giddings) has been the champion of labor for 15 years, winning many cases for the workers, and has long been a thorn in the side of the special interests."

Secretary-Treasurer Schnur has been in Oklahoma City aiding the telegraphers. He declares that "the only thing we fear is perjured testimony."

GARY STRIKERS ORDERLY.

Gary, Ind., Oct. 25.—Despite hysterical attempts to picture this steel city as the center of revolution and the home of every enemy of law and order, steel strikers are conducting themselves as decent citizens should, and are refusing to be stampeded back to the mills. The regular troops, under command of General Wood, are enforcing martial law, and while the strikers declare there is no occasion for this position, they prefer the regulars to the state militia.

Military authorities permitted a mass meeting at which 10,000 strikers were addressed by John Fitzpatrick and John H. Walker.

Military officers have notified Gary citizens that meetings of "manufacturers, steel officials, labor unions, lodges," etc., in their proper halls, are authorized and will be protected from interference as long as they are conducted in a quiet, orderly manner. Picketing is limited to two strikers, and all outdoor meetings are prohibited without the permission of the military authorities. The order declares that no favorites will be played and that the sole duty of the troops is to maintain law and order and the "fair, impartial and unprejudiced administration of justice."

PACKER'S PROFITS BIG.

Washington, Oct. 25.—The Armour Grain company, a factor in the cereal and breakfast food business and a subsidiary of the Armour Packing company reported a surplus undivided profits for the year 1917 of $5,426,830, after deducting a 78 per cent dividend on capital stock, reports the federal trade commission.

"The year's net earnings amounted to $2,908,912, or 290 per cent on the capital stock and 67 per cent on the net worth of the company, including capital, surplus and undivided profits, as reported at the close of the fiscal year 1916."

COURT FAVORS GARY

Pittsburg, Pa., Oct. 25.—Attorneys for the steel strikers have been denied a temporary injunction against Mayor Babcock, who refuses to issue meeting permits to the strikers.

The city authorities acknowledge that there is no city ordinance by whose terms the strikers are required to secure such a permit, but they insist that the mayor is justified in his action when he "believes" rioting will ensue.

ACTIVE IN DETROIT.

Detroit, Mich., Oct. 25.—Building craftsmen are conducting a successful organizing campaign among the workers of these various callings. Office workers have organized as have the janitors, and the machinists are conducting an especially active campaign.

FRENCH HEADS SAFETY BOARD

San Francisco, Oct. 25. — Will J. French, member of the California industrial accident commission, was unanimously elected president of the international association of industrial accident boards and commissions at its recent annual meeting held in Toronto, Canada.

ACTORS UNIONIZE.

Paris, France, Oct. 25.—The dramatic artists and comedians have voted not to play with non-union artists and comedians.

ABOLISH PIECE WORK.

Columbus, Ohio, Oct. 25.—The Journeymen Tailors' union has abolished piece work.

POLICE NOT TRAITORS GOVERNOR IS GRILLED

Boston, Oct. 25.—"We followed the flag and faced death in two wars. Won't you tell the people of Massachusetts in which war you served?"

This question is asked Gov. Coolidge in resolutions adopted at a mass meeting of 250 members of the Boston Policemen's union who, together with their fellows, were stigmatized by the state executive as traitors to their country when they were forced on strike to improve working conditions.

The resolutions say, in part:

"When we were honorably discharged from the United States army we were hailed as heroes and as saviors of our country. We returned to our duties on the police force of Boston.

"Now, though only a few months have passed, we are denounced as deserters, as traitors to our city and as violators of our oath of office.

"The first men to raise the cry were those who have always been opposed to giving to labor a living wage. It was taken up by newspapers, who cared little for the real facts. You finally added your word of condemnation. It had great weight, because you are governor of this commonwealth.

"You were asked on Monday, September 8, while the strike vote was being taken, to approve a plan which would have adjusted all difficulties with honor to all concerned. You did discuss the details of the plan, but what your final position was never has been revealed.

"Among us are men who have gone against spitting machine guns single-handed, and captured them, volunteering for the job. Among us are men who have ridden with dispatches through shell fire so dense that four men fell and only the fifth got through.

"Not one man of us ever disgraced the flag or his service. It is bitter to come home and to be called deserters and traitors. We are the same men here that we were on the French front.

"Some of us fought in the Spanish war of 1898. Won't you tell the people of Massachusetts in which war you served?"

FAVOR JOINT BARGAINING.

Washington, Oct. 25.—In supporting the demand of labor for the recognition of collective bargaining, C. S. Barrett, a member of the industrial conference, and president of the Farmers' Educational Co-operative Union of America, made this statement:

"I am unwilling to withold from any other group or association of men that which I demand for myself or my own group. Organized labor has asked that the conference indorse its position on collective bargaining, that it make known to the country that labor may, if it chooses, meet with heads of industry and arrange bases for the adjustment of wages, housing conditions and other matters which affect employment.

"This position to my mind is perfectly correct and I don't see how I can oppose it without stultifying myself. The national board of farm organizations has officially indorsed the Capper-Hersman bill. This bill gives to the farmers the clear right to collectively dispose of their products.

"Collective buying and collective selling are as general policies inevitable. It will be impossible for this conference to prevent their consummation."

SUPPORTS LABOR STAND.

Washington, Oct. 25.—As a member of the public group in the president's industrial conference, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., supported the position of the trade unions that the conference should indorse the principle of collective bargaining and the right of workers to choose their own representatives to present their case. Mr. Rockefeller read his statement, which was carefully prepared.

"Representation is a principle which is fundamentally just and vital to the successful conduct of industry," he said. "This is the principle upon which the democratic government of our country is founded. Surely it is not consistent for us as Americans to demand democracy in government and practice autocracy in industry.

"That which is fundamental is the idea of representation, and that idea must find expression in those forms which will serve it best, with conditions, forces and times what they are."

AFTER THE MIDDLEMAN.

Paris, France, Oct. 25. — The minister of agriculture announces that since September 1, he has opened nine municipal grocery stores in this city and five in the suburbs in a drive against profiteering middlemen. Forty-nine additional stores are nearing completion, and will be opened in the very near future.

The stores are constructed at the expense and under the direction of the food administrator, who is reimbursed by the city of Paris, which then becomes the proprietor.

These municipal groceries were established to quiet the industrial unrest due to the high cost of living. The products are sold at cost.

STEEL WORKERS UNITE.

Pittsburg, Pa., Oct. 25.—Officers of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers report continued success in their organizing campaign. The latest locals are: Pittsburg, Pa. (two locals); Lorain and Canton, Ohio; Chester, W. Va.; Ashland, Ky., and Hamilton, Canada.

MOVIE MEN RAISE WAGES.

Peoria, Ill., Oct. 25.—The Motion Picture Operators' union has advanced wages 35 per cent. The old scale was $24 and $18.85 for a week of 42 and 32 hours respectively. The new rate is $32.50 for 42 hours and $25.53 for 33 hours. The union shop is recognized.

BUT SWEEPERS UNITE.

Janesville, Wis., Oct. 25.—At a convention of church men in this city one of the speakers deplored the low wage of clergymen and said that street sweepers are paid a higher rate.

SECURE $1 AN HOUR.

Rock Island, Ill., Oct. 25.—The Plasterers' union and the Bricklayers' union of this city, Moline and Davenport have established a flat rate of $1 an hour.

TRADE UNION SOLUTION OF THE CLASH OF RIGHTS

By J. W. SULLIVAN,
Of New York Typographical Union.

Why the Right to Establish a Trade Union and Keep It Alive Takes Precedence Among Wage-Workers to the Alleged Right of the Non-Unionist to Compel Union Members to Work With Him.

The capital group in the industrial conference has put forth, in a verbal knot and tangle, an illogical and self-contradictory half-statement of the abstract, legal and conditional rights of employers and wage-workers to be recognized in making labor contracts. In reply, it is necessary to bring clearly to mind certain distinctions as to human rights and to recognize which of them are subject to modifications and in what circumstances.

The abstract rights of individuals are not absolute and invariable. In the abstract, the state guarantees to its citizens the rights to life, liberty and property. But in the concrete, the state itself subjects these rights to various qualifications, reaching in extreme instances to entire negation. It abolishes the natural right to life in the case of murderers, traitors and violent resisters of the law. It continually deprives tens of thousands of criminals of their liberty. It quarantines persons in health to prevent by their freedom of movement the possible spread of contagion. It prohibits women and children from exercising the liberty of working when, where and as they please. It denies to youth the right to roam the streets in school hours. In time of war, it takes away from fathers the right, essential in peace, to remain at home and care for their families. At all times, by taxation, it enforces a community right over the right to private property. In all such examples, the original abstract rights of the individual yield to the supreme right of the state to self-preservation.

In like manner, in contractual relationships, for the protection of society, the state gives to associations of men rights which set aside concepts of the liberties of individuals. It gives to associations of medical men the right to refuse membership to any persons deemed by them to be unqualified for the practice of medicine. It goes further. It punishes by law men or women seeking to practice methods of cure not authorized by the medical faculty. In the profession of the law, the state enables associated practitioners to exclude laymen from the bar. In the church, the absurdity of asserting the legal or moral right of a preacher of Mormonism to occupy a Presbyterian pulpit is obvious.

In like manner, the unrestricted right of the wage-worker to work at any trade, in any circumstances, with any and all classifications of other wage-workers, is customarily denied by law. Statutes are enforcible for the protection of a body of workers against individuals who may put in jeopardy the safety of their fellows with respect to life, limb or health. The state recognizes as valid contracts between employers and employed under which the latter pass upon the occupational fitness of either apprentices or journeymen seeking to work among them.

Amid the confused list of rights recognized by the capital group, the fundamental concrete and practical declaration is incontestibly the right of wage earners to organize in trade and labor unions and hence to bargain collectively and to be represented in negotiations by representatives of their own choosing. Once this foundation right is in good faith accepted by employers, they take upon themselves the obligation of modifying all alleged abstract rights of wage workers in general which are inconsistent with it as a basic and encompassing principle. In accepting this right they concede to an association of wage workers the right of its self-preservation, and this includes the right when necessary to that end to refuse to work with persons whose acts would tend to destroy the association. When non-associated individuals, asserting their right "to refrain from joining any association" and "to deal directly" with employers as they choose, decide to accept wages lower than an association scale, to work longer hours than the established workday and to put up with working conditions of a worse standard than those obtained by the association, they initiate a competition in the work shop which tends to disintegrate the association.

Thereupon, in the absence of organization, competing workers lower the level of living for the mass to the grade of the most necessitous, and hence finally injure society in general through the helplessness of all to stand up for even the right to live at civilized standards. Prior to the world war, during which the cessation of immigration caused a relative scarcity of labor in this country, the colossal monopolistic industrial corporations systematically reduced their common labor approximately to that level. They unremittingly drew upon the vast reservoirs of Europe's underpaid and casually employed workers to supply the enormous turn-over of labor at their plants consequent on the 12-hour day, a studied scheme of part employment, a wage below American ... and living conditions intolerable to human beings. In other branches of American industry in which occasional competition for labor among employers had not been superseded by combination, and in which trade unionism had not established collective bargaining, labor competition led to similar injurious social consequences. At the same time, employers in general, aside from those forming an economic oligarchical menace to our republic, were learning to depend upon the trade unions, through uniformity in contractual terms, for the maintenance of standard occupational training and the general conditions of industrial stability.

It is submitted that these considerations establish the fact that the assumed right of any and all wage-workers so to act as to bring ruin to the labor associations, which at the present stage in the development of society are the sole bulwark against the economic degradation of the masses, can not be recognized as under all conditions valid. The abstract right of the non-unionist "to deal directly with an employer as he chooses" does not give him the concrete right which compels unionists to work with him. His alleged right to make any contract whatever with an employer is, in the absence of a trade union, a mere fiction hiding the truth that the employer may play one "free" unemployed laborer against another in order to reduce the wages of both. The non-unionist has commonly no representative to negotiate any wage or workplace rights for him, no voice in establishing industrial reforms in the community or nation, no part in discussing before legislative bodies problems in which the wage-workers are the most closely interested. The non-unionist common laborer is a social nonentity except as an economic serf, serving by chance a benevolent or a malevolent economic feudal lord when he is at work and having only the opportunity to outbid his fellow wage-earner for a job when he is out of work.

When unionists concede to the non-unionist the legal right to refrain from joining any organization or to deal directly with his employer, they do not thereby clothe him with the right to come among them in the workshop and help the employer to create a situation rendering possible the abolition of trade-unionism. This possibility usually leads inevitably to a certainty. The wedge of competition for cheap labor is introduced in an industry by the poorer or meaner class of employers, who, especially in dull seasons, by employing the cheapest grade of workers break established scales and enable themselves to place their products upon the markets of commerce at lower prices than are possible to their honorable and public spirited competitors, finally bringing these also to reductions of wages.

It may be confidently affirmed that this analysis of the order and relative validity of the rights involved in the question at hand establishes a firm moral groundwork for the policy for which united labor and an enlightened public now contend. On these points labor has with it the considered and legalized agreement of employers and wage workers in general in all countries in which the present system of industrialism has brought its difficult problems. The one exception is the super-plutocracy whose representatives dominate the rest of the capital group in the industrial conference. In its stubborn adherence to mediaeval powers that anti-social element invites a contest similar to that which has witnessed the abolition of czardom and kaiserdom and of their privileges and powers for evil to their fellow men.

HIGH PRICES NEEDED SAYS BUSINESS MAN

Atlantic City, N. J., Oct. 25. — High prices are necessary in view of the mass of paper currency which has flooded the world because of the war, said Alfred C. Bedford in welcoming business men to the international trade conference.

The speaker, who is chairman of the board of directors of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey indulged in no rhetorics about profiteering, and declared that the allied countries, especially, "are all in the same boat in a sea from which buoys and lights have been mostly swept away."

High wages was declared to be a factor in present prices, but this appeared to be only incidental to the speaker's main point—an inflated currency which he especially emphasized. He referred to a report by the Swiss bank corporation, which shows that the note circulation of the belligerents, excepting Russia, increased 447 per cent in 1918, while their gold reserves increased only 45 per cent.

"To me," said Mr. Bedford, "the existence of this great mass of paper currency precludes the possibility of a rapid fall in prices, even if such a trend would not find formidable obstacles in the great volume of national debts and the determination of labor to keep wages high. High prices may be regarded as a symptom of unsoundness, but we can all appreciate the danger which would accompany any rapid fall in price which would cause goods to sell at less than they cost and the repayment in dear money of debts which had been contracted in cheap money.

"For these primary reasons it seems as if we must be reconciled for the time to a changed valuation of money and adjust ourselves to a permanently higher level of prices."

WANT GUN MEN PROBED.

Charleston, W. Va., Oct. 25.—The convention of district No. 17, United Mine Workers of America, has called on congress to investigate the "unbearable conditions existing in the Guyan valley field." The resolution declares that repeated appeals to the state government has brought no relief, and the recent experience of 50 organizers in that section is referred to. Gun men and company thugs boarded a train before the organizers reached their destination and forced them to turn back. Rifles were trained on them during the journey, which made it dangerous for the unionists to attempt to leave the train. The trade union movement has been insisting that Governor Cornwell use the powers of his office to establish Americanism in the Guyan valley.

TEACHERS JOIN UNION.

Paris, France, Oct. 25.—Because of the government's inactivity in raising wages and providing a retirement pension the National Public School Teachers' association has voted to align itself with the French federation of labor and will hereafter be recognized as a bona fide trade union.

The teachers have also voted to inaugurate a plan for international public school education against war.

In answer to the claim that the teachers are not in sympathy with the essential principles of the French trade union movement, as expressed by the federation of labor, the teachers, declared by a vote of 170 to 43 in favor of the federation's working program.

ONE BRIGHT SPOT.

Pittsburg, Pa., Oct. 25.—There is one bright spot in the Pittsburg district. Free speech and free assemblage are permitted in Charleroi, where the burgess is granting permits for the strikers of nearby trust-controlled towns to hold mass meetings. Recently 10,000 of these strikers marched through Charleroi to refute the claim that mills were resuming their normal capacity.

STRIKE FOR EIGHT HOURS.

Baltimore, Oct. 25.—Several hundred men and women employed in the meat packing industry in this city suspended work to enforce the eight-hour day.

LEWIS DEFENDS MINERS.

Washington, Oct. 25.—John L. Lewis, acting president of the United Mine Workers, defends the coal diggers against the charge that they have repudiated their contract with the bituminous operators when they declare they will strike to enforce wage increases. President Lewis said: "The claim of the operators that miners are guilty of repudiation of contract is totally unfounded and has no basis in fact. The Washington wage agreement reads that it is to continue in force and effect 'until the ending of the war or until March 31, 1920.' In substance and form the war has ended. The mine workers have no contract; the contract expired upon the 11th day of November, 1918, when hostilities ceased.

"In order to give the country and the mining industry an oportunity for readjustment, the mine workers have worked for an additional year for the same wages, merely by common consent. We now seek to negotiate a new agreement to become effective November 1. Ample notice has been given the operators of our intentions in this respect, but they have steadfastly refused to take any actions that might interfere with their profits. The miners have had no increase in wages for more than two years."

The miners' official charged the mine operators with attempting to camoufiage the situation by talks of "repudiation of contract," that they might profiteer.

EDITOR SEES THE LIGHT.

New York, Oct. 25.—The editor of the New York World sees a great white light and accepts the position of organized labor that a denial of free speech and free assemblage develops unrest, rather than stops it.

"To meet law-abiding men in the same spirit that those who defy the law encounter is to put a premium upon disorder and revolt," says the editor. "Most people, whether employers or employes, profess to deplore violence in industrial conflicts. When the police authorities do not distinguish between good behavior and bad they act directly in the interest of the very element that they fear.

"Pittsburg and various other communities may well ask themselves this question: Why create grievances needlessly and why arm the reds with arguments with which they can influence Americans not otherwise to be convinced?"

MEAT PACKERS GAIN

Fargo, N. D., Oct. 25.—The Equity Co-operative Packing company has signed an agreement with organized meat cutters and butcher workmen. The first of the year the plant will accept the wage rate of Federal Judge Alschuler that is effective at that time. Employes attending union conventions or other duties affecting themselves shall, upon giving proper notice to the foreman or superintendent, be permitted to absent themselves without pay, and upon their return they shall be reinstated with their former rights. Thirty days' employment shall be accepted as proof of competency, and where a member is dismissed for incompetency, the specific act must be stated, on demand of the employe or the union.

"MOLDING" PUBLIC OPINION.

New York, Oct. 25.—In a column editorial on "collective bargaining," the New York Times, one of the nation's leading "molders of public opinion," makes this interesting statement:

"Labor regards machinery as the enemy, because it 'saves' labor and lessens wages to workers."

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES

Springfield, Mo., Oct. 25.—Newspaper printers have raised wages $4 a week, the new rates being $34 and $36.

Oklahoma City, Okla., Oct. 25.—After a short strike newspaper printers have raised wages to $37 a week for day work and $40 for night work. Their original demand was $42 and $45.

TUG MEN MAKE GAINS.

Duluth, Minn., Oct. 25.—Organized tug men and linemen have ended their strike at this port and have secured increased hours and wage improvements. The workers waived their demand for one day off in seven.

STANDARDS FOR CHILD.

Washington, Oct. 25.—As the result of conferences held in several cities last spring, the United States children's bureau has formulated "Standards for Child Welfare," which, it is stated, may be taken as an embodiment of the best expert opinion on the needs and rights of childhood.

The bureau says these standards are the minimum and do not limit the degree of protection which an advanced state might desire to give its children.

Among other things they recognize that the protection of the child must begin with the protection of the mother, and that proper care be afforded her before, during and after childbirth. Emphasis is placed on the need for a family income that will enable the mothers of young children to stay in the home, instead of going out to work, with consequent neglect of home and family.

More and better schools, vocational schools, vocational guidance and training, school lunches, and medical supervision are the standards for school children.

The standards for working children would put a stop to child labor in this country, it is stated. They include a minimum working age of 16 years, part-time compulsory continuation schools for working children between 16 and 18, and public responsibility for the health and general welfare of the working child.

Abundant recreational facilities are included, as is provision for the care and training of "special" children—defectives, delinquents, and dependants.

REJECT O. B. U.

Bakersfield, Cal., Oct. 25.—By a vote of 132 to 8 the annual convention of the California state federation of labor rejected a "one big union" resolution. Under the existing laws of the American Federation of Labor the members of the iron working unions, for instance, can vote to merge their unions into one organization, but this fact was ignored by the o. b. u. advocates, who wanted the state federation to "go on record as favoring the amalgamation of the various craft unions affiliated with the A. F. of L." The resolution also provided for a referendum vote of the federation's affiliates.

DISCUSSING H. C. OF L.

Cumberland, Wash., Oct. 25.—In urging indorsement of the triple alliance at a mass meeting of miners, F. P. Waters, representing the farmers, said:

"The politician has told you that the farmer is responsible for much of the high cost of living, but he never told you that your 60-cent bacon came out of an 18-cent hog—and there is some spread there."

The meeting indorsed the triple alliance, which is a non-partisan combination of trade unionists, railroad brotherhood members and organized farmers.

RECOGNIZE CITY EMPLOYES.

Paris, France, Oct. 25.—After a four-days' general strike that involved 78 villages and communes in this vicinity municipal employes' unions have won recognition and hereafter the mayors of these municipalities will not possess an autocratic power over these workers. The unions have established themselves as bona fide trade unions and secured a basic minimum wage of $2.80 a day for the lowest grade of laborers, retroactive to January, 1919.

BRUSH MAKERS ENJOINED.

Chicago, Oct. 25.—Broom and whisk makers employed by the Chicago Manufacturing company have been enjoined from picketing. These workers are locally 100 per cent organized and have tied up the plant because two of their members were victimized.

RETAIL CLERKS UNITE.

Freeport, Ill., Oct. 25.—Nearly 100 retail clerks in this city have organized and joined the trade union movement.

PAPER MAKERS UNITE

Quincy, Ill., Oct. 25.—Paper makers in this city have formed a 100 per cent trade union.

WAGES ARE NOT HIGH; STATISTICS CONFUSE

Boston, Oct. 25.—In a statement by the national industrial conference board it is stated that the "average wages of men in eight leading industries, as measured by average hourly earnings, increased all the way from 74 per cent to 112 per cent during the period from September, 1914, to March, 1919."

The board represents a score of employers' associations, and has issued a report on "War Time Changes in Wages."

The board proves its claim of wage increases by a series of tables, which also show—although the board does not acknowledge it—that the September, 1914, average rate of these workers could not meet the American standard of living, and that the same is true of the March, 1919, average rate.

The report shows weekly earnings in eight industries, based on pay roll data, usually the third week of September for the years 1914 to 1918, and for the first week in March, 1919.

The eight industries, with weekly wages paid men, follow—the first figures being the September, 1914, average rate, and the second figures the March, 1919, average rate:

Metal—$13.18-$24.75.
Cotton—$10.00-$17.10.
Wool—$11.52-$18.61.
Silk—$11.77-$22.69.
Boots and shoes—$14.70-$25.90.
Paper—$12.73-$22.40.
Rubber—$14.00-$29.25.
Chemical—$12.85-$26.20.

According to the above figures the average weekly wage for men workers in these eight industries was $12.59 in September, 1914, and $23.37 in March, 1919.

WHY FOREIGNERS STRIKE.

Cincinnati, Oct. 25.—Foreigners employed in the steel mills suspended work because they were denied a freedom that they expected, says John P. Frey, editor of the International Molders' Journal.

"For years foreigners were given the preference over American-born in many of the steel mills, and, if a majority of workers in the steel industry are foreigners, it is because the steel interests preferred the foreigners to the Americans.

"Had the steel interests given to these foreigners the conditions of labor which they expected to find in freedom-loving America, the present strike would not have occurred."

PRESS AGENTS RATTLED.

Washington, Oct. 25. — Press agents for the steel trust are becoming rattled in their campaign of "education" against the steel strikers. One group of these publicity men is working on the theory that the people will forget a subject that is not mentioned, so they refer to "the recent steel strike."

Another group, located in the Pittsburg strike zone, is facing actual conditions, and they announce that everybody is against the strike and are demanding that it end. The steel operators are claiming—or it is claimed that they claim—they will move their mills from Pittsburg if the strikers do not prove their "Americanism" and return to work.

MEAT CUTTERS UNITE.

Austin, Texas, Oct. 25.—Meat cutters and butcher workmen in this city have organized.

Striking plumbers and electrical workers have returned to work and their wage demands will be passed upon by an arbitration board.

Starting with the first of the month, the barbers' work day will be one hour less.

WIN 44-HOUR WEEK.

Denver, Oct. 25.—After a two-weeks' strike the jewelry workers have returned to work with a 44-hour week and wage increases. The former work week was 48 hours with a wage rate as low as $20 a week. The new minimum will be $30.

STREET CAR STRIKE ENDS.

Olean, N. Y., Oct. 25.—An eight-weeks' strike of traction employes has ended by the street car men securing improved conditions and recognition of their organization.

"NO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING," SAYS STEEL TRUST AND ALLIES

Washington, Oct. 25.—After a conference with his associates in New York, Judge Gary notified the president's industrial conference, of which he is a member, that the steel corporation would not waver in its stand against arbitrating the steel strike or for absolute and complete non-unionism in its plants.

It was the mailed fist, encased in velvet, that Judge Gary presented to the nation.

The employer group was urged by business interests throughout the country to stand pat for non-unionism, and they were assisted by every water boy for the oligarch elephant, who told the public that the workers' demand for collective bargaining was a camouflage for "revolution." The same tactics has permitted the employer group to escape public censure because of their stand behind the steel trust in its refusal to arbitrate the steel strike.

For over a week the conference attempted to reconcile the position of the labor group and the employer group. The former stands for the right to organize, with the workers free to choose their own representatives in the presentation of grievances.

The employer group advanced the old theory of anti-unionists—that workers have the right to organize and employers have the right to refuse to deal with or recognize an organization of their employes, and that an employer has the right to refuse to recognize representatives of his employes who are not in his employ. In short, the employer group wanted the steel trust's present position given a blanket indorsement.

Numerous attempts were made by the groups to secure a middle ground, but it was found impossible to reconcile the forces of industrial autocracy and the theory that workers have the right to organize, to select their own spokesmen and have a voice in wages, hours and working conditions.

The sentiment expressed by Judge Gary, and supported by large business interests, is not new. Other employers have made similar statements. Other employers have said: "I have nothing to arbitrate," and declared, as did the French monarch: "I am the state."

The defeat of these men is nothing to Judge Gary and his associates who seem blind to the passing of other Bourbons and who now refuse to arbitrate the steel strike or yield complete mastery over the men in their employ.

Replying to Judge Gary, President Gompers treated the matter as another of the many obstacles that have confronted the organized workers.

"The solicitude," said the trade unionist, "of the modern employer who has that understanding of and that great sympathy for the unorganized worker—well, the unorganized workers know where to come when they are in great stress. They know where they can get sympathy; they know where they can get encouragement; they know where their hope lies—and they come to us to be rid of the domination and injustices of arbitrary employers."

MISHAPS IN INDUSTRY CAUSE GIGANTIC LOSS

Harrisburg, Pa., Oct. 25.—Employers and editors who plead for "efficiency in production" have been given food for reflection in a letter addressed to 5,000 industrial plants in this state by Clifford B. Connelley, acting commissioner of labor and industry, who estimates that from January 1, 1916, to August 1, 1919, the total loss to the state because of industrial accidents was $173,000,000. This loss can be greatly reduced, says the state official, by making safety a dominant factor in each industrial process.

"From January 1, 1916, to August 1, 1919, reports indicate deaths of 10,800 workers through accidents and the disabling of 743,530 other workers for periods exceeding two days each," says the commissioner.

"Economists declare that the death of each industrial worker causes an economic loss to the state of at least $5,000; some estimates run as high as $15,000 for each worker killed. Consider the economic loss of 10,800 workers at $5,000 and we have a total item of $54,000,000.

"The wages lost by the 743,530 disabled men through their inability to perform useful work during their period of disablement was at least $50,000,000."

The commissioner included in his list the expenses caused by labor turnover, the cost to insurance companies and state agencies and other agencies making and supervising the payment of workmen's compensation.

"I believe," he said, "that $173,000,000 is a very conservative estimate of the total cost of industrial accidents in Pennsylvania for the period (January 1, 1916, to August 1, 1919)."

EMPLOYER 'FESSES UP.

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, Oct. 25.—The Edmonton Free Press, published by the trades and labor council, calls attention to a confession of an employer at the recent industrial conference called by the government, and which was held at Ottawa. The employer was objecting to the general eight-hour day, and said:

"If you (the workers) had come to this conference and said: 'We do not ask for a general eight-hour day or a 44-hour week, but we do ask for it in certain lines of industry,' and naming those industries, because you have examined into them; and if you state, 'This is an industry where a man has sweated his blood, sweated the sweat out of his body, where a woman has worked until she has stretched the elastic so that it is nearly broken,' then we will meet you."

UNEARTH PROFITEERING.

Washington, Oct. 25.—A committee of the United States senate has discovered profiteering by wholesale and retail dealers in the District of Columbia. It is stated that retail meat dealers receive a greater per cent of profit than the farmer, live stock raiser, buyer, railways, commission men, cold storage and packers combined. Retail prices are frequently 200 and 300 per cent higher than wholesale prices. The report fails to recommend any legislative action, but suggests co-operative buying to eliminate the middleman. The publication of prices is also favored.

LAW TRAILS BEHIND.

Lyons, France, Oct. 25.—At the annual convention of the National Federation of Metal Workers, Secretary Merrheim declared parliament should not be given credit for establishing the eight-hour system in this industry.

"By collective bargaining," he said, "the metal workers obtained the eight-hour day before parliament passed the eight-hour law. Through our success we have increased our membership from 60,000 to 170,000."

CIGAR MAKERS GAIN.

Davenport, Iowa, Oct. 25.—Cigar makers in this city and in Rock Island and Moline, Ill., have secured substantial wage increases through negotiation with employers.

Wilmington, Del., Oct. 25.—A 40 per cent wage increase has been negotiated by Cigar Makers' union No. 296.

TEACHERS UNITING.

Denver, Oct. 25.—Grade public school teachers have followed high school teachers and organized an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers.

WIN EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Augusta, Ga., Oct. 25.—Employing tailors in this city, with one exception, have signed the new eight-hour contract of the Journeyman Tailors' union, and this strike is at an end.

ALLEGED "OPEN" SHOP REJECTED BY THINKERS

Washington, Oct. 25.—The alleged "open" shop is rejected by every one who has seriously studied the economics of labor contracts, said A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison, acting as chairman of the labor group in the industrial conference during President Gompers' temporary illness.

The trade unionist called attention to declarations in favor of collective bargaining by the recent national war labor board, the Canadian royal commission on inquiry into industrial relations, the British national conference convened by Premier Lloyd George last February, the favorable attitude of British employers toward collective bargaining, as reported last May by a commission of business men appointed by the United States department of labor, to the policy of the British government in recognizing collective bargaining, as recommended by the Whitley commission, created by the government, and also the policy of officers of the United States railroad administration.

Attention was called to the acceptance of collective action by the workers in Australian and Norwegian arbitration courts and its general acceptance in France, Sweden, Germany and other European countries.

"Finally," said Secretary Morrison, "no representative of labor authorized by labor could possibly take part in the present industrial conference if employers in general in the United States should refuse to deal with wage workers or groups of wage workers 'not in their employ or not chosen among their employes.' Logical the capital group in this body should refuse to recognize the labor group in this body as representing labor.

"The confederations of employing-class managers of colossal corporations bent on paying dividends on billions of capital, largely fictitious, represented in this industrial conference, have challenged the common sense of the American people in demanding the dissolution of the solidarity of the workers.

"The union shop is the sole practical obstacle to that de-Americanization of labor which for years has been the policy of the economic oligarchy governing the basic industries of this country."

DEFINES "FREE" SPEECH.

Pittsburg, Pa., Oct. 25.—Attacks against Mayor Babcock's denial of free speech and free assemblage in this city have forced him to publicly explain his attempt to maintain peace and order.

"The fact," he says, "that Mr. Foster (of the strike committee) is continually in the city and has the reputation of starting trouble in other places, causes me to plan to be ultra safe and conservative in the interests of the city of Pittsburg and all the people inside its strike zone. Permits have been granted for meetings in the labor temple and Kenyon hall, north side, and there is no objection to having other meetings in similar districts where there has been no trouble and no trouble is expected."

According to the mayor's reasoning if a worker has the "reputation"—no matter how acquired—for "starting trouble," and if some one tells the mayor that "trouble is expected," these are sufficient to set aside constitutional guarantees.

JUDGE GARY IS "KIND."

San Francisco, Oct. 25.—Says Editor Barry of the Star:

"No basic industry has treated its employees with greater respect and consideration than the United States steel corporation," says kind-hearted old Judge Gary. Then he proves it by this tabulation: 69,284 of the corporation's employees worked a 12-hour day, 199,896 a 10-hour day and 88,904 averaged an 8-hour day—which might mean they work 12 hours some days and not at all on others. How'd you like to work for the genial judge?

FAVOR CO-OPERATION.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Oct. 25.—At the annual convention of the state federation of labor the Rochdale system of co-operation was indorsed. This system provides that goods shall be sold at the prevailing market price and that profits shall be divided not on the amount of stock held by a person, but on the basis of purchases made at the co-operative store.

STANDS BY GARY.

Atlantic City, N. J., Oct. 25.—Just to "keep the record straight," the American Hardware Manufacturers' association has passed a resolution commending the steel trust for "refusing to deal with labor agitators."

GET $1.10 AN HOUR.

Philadelphia, Oct. 25.—Striking bricklayers have compromised their wage demand and will now receive $1.10 an hour. The union shop is recognized.